

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND
)	
Cynthia J. Moss-Johnson)	
)	
Certificate # 181239)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 9, 2003. On August 19, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate (certificate) to Ms. Cynthia J. Moss-Johnson by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. Moss-Johnson received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and proposed to resolve this matter by agreement of the parties. Through her attorney, Derrick L. Williams, Esquire, Ms. Moss-Johnson agreed to accept the Department's proposal to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) she agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Ms. Moss-Johnson has taught in Lexington County School District Five (District) for eight years. On April 8, 2003, Irmo Middle School officials were informed that Ms. Moss-Johnson, a self-contained autism teacher, might have violated testing procedures on students's PACT ALT assessment portfolios. After an investigation on the above referenced date, Irmo Middle School officials allege that she altered some students' assessment portfolios and therefore may committed test security violations. Allegations against Ms. Moss-Johnson include: she took photographs during the last four weeks of school and assigned dates indicating that the photographs were taken during several earlier holiday periods; she created evaluation documents for a student who was absent by having the student fill in some sheets after the date the activity was supposed to be held; she completed data collection sheets for a student for some dates in April where data were not collected; and she created data collection sheets to reflect performance for a student in October when that student was absent due to surgery.

Accepted:

Initial Here

Date:

Cynthia J.
Moss-
Johnson
#181239

Ms. Moss-Johnson resigned from her position as a teacher at Irmo Middle School on April 9, 2003. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) investigative report has not been completed, but the District has provided copies of the altered documents and statements from the persons involved and those who investigated on behalf of the District. If Ms. Moss-Johnson is convicted of a violation of the test security law, the Department reserves the right to re-open this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Ms. Moss-Johnson's certificate; however, cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Ms. Moss-Johnson's conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 9, 2003

I, Cynthia J. Moss-Johnson, SC Teaching Certificate # 181239, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, September 9, 2003.

9/5/03
Date

/S/ CJ Moss-Johnson
Signature